



NEWS RELEASE

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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Watford City Man Sentenced for Involuntary Manslaughter

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on May 15, 2006, **Fred J. Hale** of Watford City, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Hale, 25, pleaded guilty to the charge on February 17, 2006. The crash occurred on September 17, 2005, while **Hale** was the driver of a van on Highway 22 outside of New Town on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. **Hale** passed another vehicle at approximately 90 miles per hour and lost control of the van, which went into the ditch and rolled several times. A passenger in **Hale's** vehicle, Mackenzie Wounded Face, 25, was ejected and killed, while another passenger survived. **Hale** was intoxicated at the time with a blood alcohol content of .16%.

Judge Hovland sentenced **Hale** to serve two years and nine months in Federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Hale** was ordered to pay restitution of \$7,258.30 and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Indian Affairs - Fort Berthold Agency, North Dakota Highway Patrol, and Dickinson Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Rick Volk prosecuted the case.

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